

# INDEXA

Summer 2003



Issue 62

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship  
Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

## The Story of ZL7C — October, 2002

*excerpts from an article by Ken Holdom, ZL4HU, and Stan White, ZL2ST*

The Chatham Islands is a group of ten islands, two of which are populated—Chatham with 700 people and Pitt with 50. The islands are situated 770 km or 1 hour 40 minutes flying time southeast of Wellington, New Zealand. Enclosed within the main island of Chatham is a very large lagoon which is only open to the sea occasionally. The Chathams were first inhabited by Moriori people for 700 years and then Maori. The statue of the last full-blooded Moriori, Tommy Solomon who died in 1931, stands at Owenga on the east coast.

In the 1960s there was an invasion of fishing boats and their crews in search of riches from crayfish (rock lobster), wetfish and paua (abalone) and these areas were considerably overfished. These days some wealth still comes from crayfish and paua exports while sheep farming also produces revenue. There is a small but growing tourism industry. The occasional "ham" visit contributes to this!

Following on from two very highly successful DXpeditions to ZL8RI in May 1996 and to ZL9CI in January 1999 the Kermadec DX Association began planning a further DXpedition to ZK3, Tokelau Islands in July/August 2002. Initial enquiries were made regarding the cost of chartering a suitable vessel and when costs



*The ZL7C team*

were realized, it was out of the question to ask the international DX community to support such a venture.

With the blood pressure still at a high level and the adrenaline pumping a decision was made to undertake a "fun" DXpedition to ZL7 in October 2002. A majority of those who had already contributed towards ZK3 were only too willing for their support to be transferred to ZL7 and the planning commenced immediately. Whilst this was to be a "fun" DXpedition it still had to be conducted in the same professional manner as were ZL8

and ZL9 and we certainly did not wish to tarnish our reputation in any way.

The team consisted of Al Hernandez, K3VN; Bill Beyer, N2WB; Bob McQuarrie, ZL3TY; Dave Anderson, KW4DA; Hiro Miyake, JF1OCQ; Murray Woodfield, ZL1CN; Paul Rubinfield, WF5T; Reinhard Maute, DF4TD; Stan White, ZL2ST; Steve Taylor, G4EDG; Wilbert Knol, ZL2BSJ; and Ken Holdom, ZL4HU, the team leader—a total combined operating experience of 350+ years.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**inside...** *Report from Visalia*  
**XE1CI — Part 2**

**INDEXA Ballot**  
**Silent Key Report**

## ZL7C.....from page 1

In New Zealand our two non-traveling members were webmaster Gordon Stewart, ZL2ARN, and pilot Lee Jennings, ZL2AL who undertook a most appreciated support role for the DXpedition.

### The operation

We operated from the local racetrack lounge which had a magnificent view of the total racecourse and surrounding areas. It also contained a small kitchen.

We setup the operating stations in two groups with two stations per table along the sides of the lounge. The SSB setup consisted of four rigs plus three amplifiers, while the CW setup had three rigs and two linear. The VHF equipment was situated between the two areas.

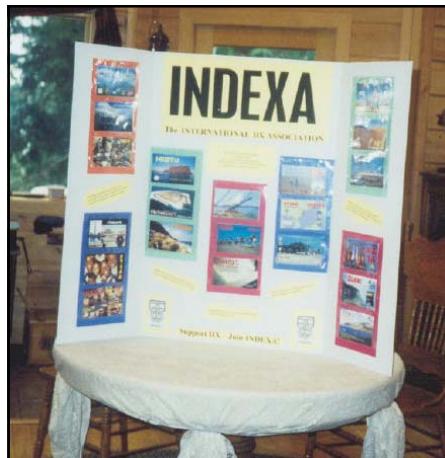
Our first QSOs were about 5 p.m. local (0315Z—Chatham's time is 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand) on Thursday, 17 October. We were amazed at the QSO demand and by the end of the first 24 hours we had clocked-up 10,000 contacts. The next 24 hours produced another 10,000 QSOs and then the rate dropped a little to about 6,600 per 24 hours. We continued with 24-hour operation and gradually introduced more low band operation including 80 metre SSB and 160 metres.

The operation was closed down at midnight local time on 28 October to allow us to have some well earned rest before dismantling the aerials early the next day. As we finished, the pileups were still there but somewhat diminished after 11 days operation.

To all our supporters/sponsors we would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to all and without this support this DXpedition would not have taken place!

For more pictures and information plus ZL7C logs and QSO totals, have a look at our website at <http://www.qsl.net/zl7c/>.

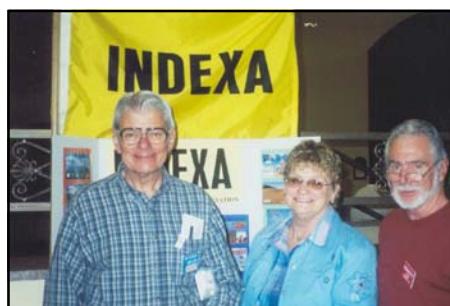
## Visalia—2003



**Camille Sereni, XYL of KB6KTV, donated time and talent to design an INDEXA display.**

INDEXA staffers, Don, KB6KTV, and Terry, KJ6OW, refused to let bad weather dampen their enthusiasm for representing INDEXA at the 54th Annual International DX Convention in Visalia.

Don was accompanied by his XYL, Camille, who brought many creative ideas to the project including the design and implementation of the display at the INDEXA information table. Nadine, KC6DHO, accompanied her OM, Terry, bringing additional support and enthusiasm to the project!



**Left to right: From New Hampshire, Joe Reisert, Jr., W1JR; Camille Sereni; and Don Sereni, KB6KTV**

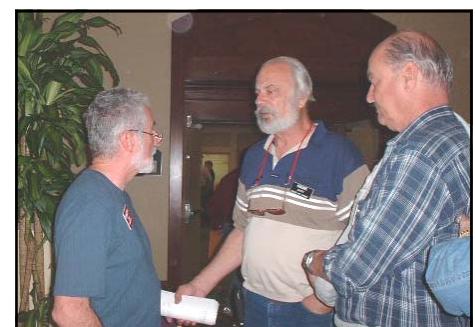
An impressive number of DXers, including several current INDEXA members, stopped by the table to sign the guest book. Our dedicated crew distributed informational material and membership applications resulting in many new members.

As we look forward to the 55th Annual DX Convention, we take a moment to look back and express our gratitude to the Northern California DX Association for their gracious hospitality during INDEXA'S premier presence at this respected and time-honored convention!

*Editor's Note: All photos are courtesy of Don, KB6KTV, and Camille Sereni.*



**Left to right: Ruth Nylen, XYL of W6NGW; and Ulla Kordel, K7AFB**



**Left to right: INDEXA staff member, Don, KB6KTV in QSO with Bart Susman, K6UNR and Al Nylen, W6NGW**



**As Don, KB6KTV, proudly displays INDEXA's colors, "Shelby" supervises while vying for top billing!**

## XE1CI: A Public Service Story—Part 2

By Joan Gibson, KG1F, and reprinted with the permission of the ARRL from an article published in *QST*, March, 1989. Copyright ARRL.

**B**eginning a family of her own didn't stop Nellie from her work at the Children's Hospital. After her first daughter, Patricia (now XE1TX), was born, Nellie found time to spend two days a week working with hospitalized children. Six years later, Patricia's sister Deborah (XE1YW) was born, followed by Lorena (XE1XYV).

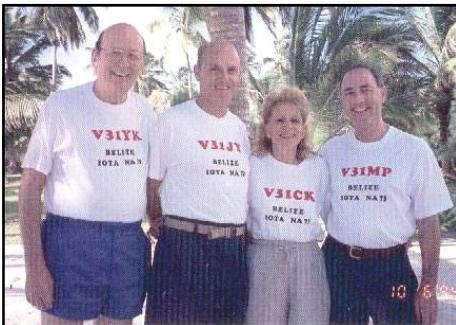
In 1970, Nellie's Amateur Radio license brought a new dimension to her work with the hospitalized children. After spending countless hours on the LYISSB, the International Missionary Radio Association Net as well as the Mexican Emergency System, XE1CI had the idea of "giving



XE1CI/BV

balance to her home where they stayed for about an hour. "The first child was Maria, 12 years old, who had a tracheotomy. She had an opening in her throat and difficulty speaking. At first she was reluctant to speak, but when she heard another little girl speaking to her on the radio, she decided to answer some questions. I gave her the microphone. It was difficult to understand what she was saying, but she kept repeating the answer and finally we all understood. She talked with a YL and two other young children for nearly 45 minutes! From then on she wanted to come to my house every week and say hello to her new friends. Of course I had to give other children a chance, and soon I brought Carlos, age 11, to my house. At first, like other children, he was very shy and hesitant; it took him much longer to become familiar with the microphone. The first time he sat at the station, I helped him with the answers, but the next time he had enough confidence and was able to take the microphone all by himself. As soon as he was asked to give his name, he started to cry.

"All the boys and girls who came to my house from the hospital had the chance to talk with someone on the other end of the radio at least twice a month. Luckily, these children were not at the hospital for long periods of time, but for the time they were here they felt they were special, which



Stan, V31YK; John, V31JY; Nellie, V31CK; and Mike, V31MP operating from Ambergris Caye, Belize DXpedition 1994.

the children at the hospital something that would make them feel important and something to look forward to in life—something to make them feel they had blood in their veins." During this time, XE1CI was meeting regularly with a group of YLs on 20 meters who were from Guatemala, San Salvador, Venezuela, Argentina and Costa Rica. "We got to the idea that each of us would bring a sick or handicapped child to our individual stations once a week, and through radio, introduce them and let them express their feelings to each other."

Nellie received permission from the hospital to bring the children by am-

was the truth. When these children had the experience of meeting and talking with another child on the radio, they had wonderful and exciting stories to take back to the hospital to tell the children, nurses, doctors and their families."

Miguel, age 15, had many more opportunities to enjoy Amateur Radio than most of the other children Nellie befriended. Miguel had third-degree burns on his chest. He had multiple hospital stays because several skin grafts were necessary. During those times he looked forward to being in Nellie's shack and renewing acquaintances with his radio friends. "The children talked about everything. They asked each other about their illnesses, families, hobbies, schools, how they dressed and even the color of their eyes," recalls Nellie.

Sadly the day came when the hospital decided not to permit the children to leave the wards during their stay, and Nellie's "radio therapy" came to an end. Her work at the hospital continued as did her interest in Amateur Radio....

Nellie Saltiel de Lazard, XE1CI's

### Cuba CO/XE1CI



Nellie, XE1CI, on one of her numerous DXpeditions to Cuba.

commitment to serving children at Children's Hospital de Mexico was somewhat limited during the years she was raising her three daughters. Although she continued to make weekly visits to the hospital, her time nonetheless focused on her immediate family. More time at home also meant a proximity to the radio station, and Nellie discovered the rewards and enjoyments of continued public-service work through Amateur Radio. (Conclusion in next issue)

## INDEXA Ballot: 2003-2004

Office	Nominee	Yes	No	Write-in
President	AA7UC			
Vice-President	WA5PAE			
Secretary-Treasurer	W4UNP			
Director: 2 years	ZL1AMO			
	DJ9ZB			
Director: 1 year	XE1CI			

### Voting Instructions

Please vote by paper ballot.

If you receive the e-version of the newsletter, print the ballot and mail it in paper form only; *not* via e-mail! If you are unable to print your ballot, the election officer, W4UNP, will, at your request, mail a paper ballot to you via the USPS mail.

All ballots must be returned to the election officer no later than 30 September 2003.

### Election Officer

Bill Jennings, W4UNP  
Secretary-Treasurer, INDEXA  
630 Whitepine Drive  
Catawba, SC 29704 U.S.A.

## Silent Keys

It is with deep sadness that INDEXA reports the passing of three of its valued members:

- Geraldine Hedrick, N5EIN
- John F. Holterman, WDX3JFH
- Ray Balch, K6VX

We know this is a time of great sorrow for their families and friends. It is also a sad time for INDEXA because we all share the pain when we lose one of our own.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with their families.

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## DX World Guide by Franz Langner, DJ9ZB

Rojahn & Kraft Verlag, P.O. Box 620367, D-22403 Hamburg  
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